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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington D.C. 20505

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

11 April 1984

First Deputy Prime Minister Arkhipov's
Visit to China [redacted]

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Arkhipov's visit to China next month probably will lead to some further expansion of Sino-Soviet economic relations at a time of continuing impasse over basic security issues. [redacted]

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Arkhipov, the highest level Soviet official to travel to China in 15 years, had broad experience as an economic adviser in China during the 1950s. [redacted]

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The Soviets proposed the visit late last year to discuss economic and trade issues outside the context of the ongoing vice foreign ministerial talks. The Soviets have made similar proposals for talks on "international issues" to develop more channels in order to get at least some movement in Sino-Soviet relations. The Chinese agreed in principle to Arkhipov's visit early this year but, deferred it until May, presumably with an eye on the upcoming visit of President Reagan. No precise dates have been announced. [redacted]

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This memorandum was produced by the China Division of the Office of East Asian Analysis [redacted]

[redacted] Questions and comments are welcome and may be addressed to the Chief of the China Division [redacted]

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Possible topics for discussion in the talks include:

- Measures to increase bilateral trade from its projected 1984 level of \$1.2 billion to a possible level of \$5 billion by 1990.
- The establishment of a long term (i.e. five year) Sino-Soviet trade and/or technical cooperation agreement.
- The establishment of a joint economic commission to guide expanded Sino-Soviet economic interchange.

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Agreement on all these issues during Arkhipov's visit is unlikely, although we believe the visit could produce some forward movement in all three areas. Moscow has long favored such increased exchanges as a means to gradually normalize Sino-Soviet relations without accommodating Chinese strategic and political demands. It probably will also use the opportunity of Arkhipov's visit to assess at first hand the prospects for Sino-US relations after President Reagan's visit.

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Beijing recently has shown greater interest in moderately increased economic ties with the USSR as a means to enhance its economic modernization and to demonstrate Chinese "independence" in foreign affairs. By scheduling the visit in May, the Chinese doubtless hope that prospects of increased economic interchange and higher level visits with the USSR will strengthen their leverage in upcoming discussions with the United States.

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